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DD/S 71-1647

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FILE

*Security 4*

APR 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, United States Intelligence Board

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Support

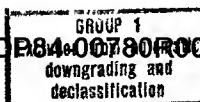
SUBJECT : A Proposal that George C. Wilson, Staff Writer, Washington Post, Be Contacted by a Public Affairs Officer, Department of Defense

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for your approval; such recommendation is contained in paragraph B.

2. As you know, the matter raised in Vice Admiral Noel Gayler's letter of 10 August 1970 concerning unauthorized disclosures of SIGINT information to the news media was the subject of a thorough re-examination and discussion by the Security Committee of the United States Intelligence Board. As a result, a mechanism was established by the Security Committee called the 'Quick Reaction' Working Group. The Committee felt that this Working Group, at the right time and under the right circumstances, might succeed in identification of the source of a disclosure.

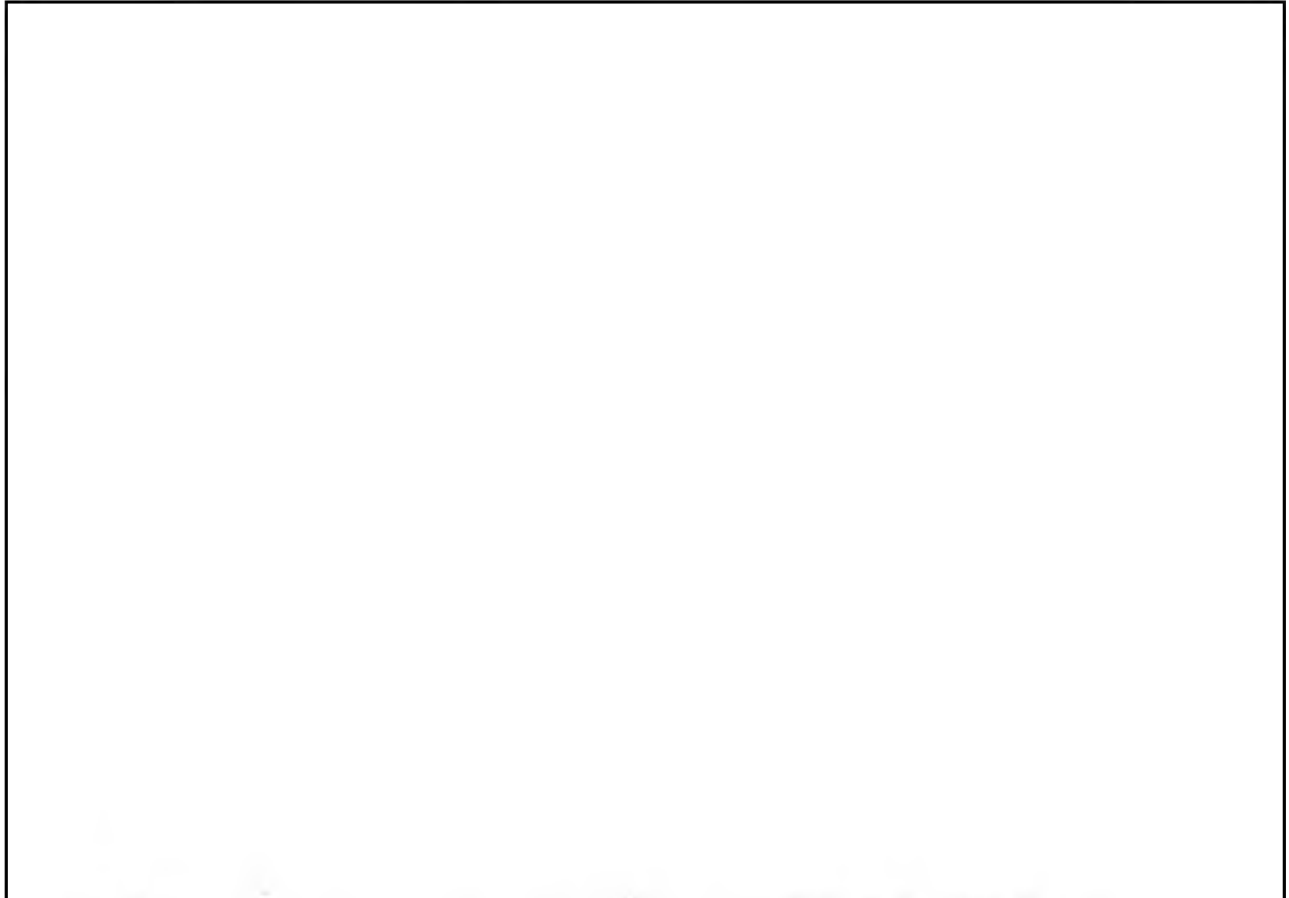
3. Since the Working Group's formation on 21 August 1970, the Security Committee has conducted timely investigations of numerous disclosures which had the benefit of a quick response combined with extensive past experience. As in the past, the investigations proved unproductive because the documents involved, in spite of immediate inquiry, were so widely disseminated that interviews with recipients became a fruitless task.

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reporting. [redacted] Chief, Counterintelligence Branch, DIA Security, believes that the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mr. Robert F. Froehke, and the Director, DIA, Lieutenant General Donald V. Bennett, would fully support such an approach to Wilson, and he is prepared to take the necessary action to obtain their approval.

7. The Security Committee recognizes that there is a risk in contacting Wilson, but considers his threat to intelligence sources and methods greater, and worth the risk of news media criticism. In the past Wilson has been of concern to the Pentagon because of his disclosure of Secret data concerning a Navy proposal to sink the oldest 10 of the Navy's 41 Polaris submarines to save money. Wilson was subsequently contacted by a Pentagon representative. Although affable, he was noncommittal. Subsequently, he wrote

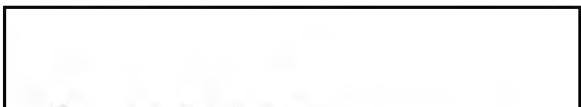
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an article in the Washington Post, dated 17 July 1969, entitled "Polaris 'Leak' to Congress under Probe" (Tab C). This article, critical of the Pentagon investigation, apparently did not create a stir either in the mass media or in the intelligence community. The "Probe" article, in fact, did appear to have a salutary effect in that for a period of six to nine months Wilson did not originate material which was of serious security concern. Conjecture is that Wilson's sources may have been less willing to provide him with classified information, knowing that he was of interest to Government investigators.

8. It is recommended that the Security Committee proposal to contact Wilson through a Pentagon Public Affairs Officer selected by the Department of Defense be approved. In the interim, the Committee will continue to pursue vigorous investigations of those news media "leaks" which threaten our intelligence sources and methods, especially those breaches of security in the field of SIGNAL INTELLIGENCE.

9. We have attached, as Tab D, background information on Wilson.

  
Howard J. Osborn  
Chairman, Security Committee  
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**SUBJECT: A Proposal that George C. Wilson, Staff Writer,  
Washington Post, Be Contacted by a Public Relations  
Officer, Department of Defense**

**CONCURRENCE:**

(Signed) John W. Coffey

**John W. Coffey  
Deputy Director  
for Support**

4 MAY 1971

**Date**

**The recommendation contained in paragraph 3 is approved.**

15/  
**Richard Helms  
Chairman**

**United States Intelligence Board**

6 May 71  
**Date**

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